



STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

Chief Information Officer

Advisory

September 17, 2008

To: Distribution

Subject: Use of Bluetooth Technology

The purpose of this advisory is to clarify for all state agencies the State of Montana CIO's position on the utilization of Bluetooth technology.

There are no state policies or standards prohibiting the use of Bluetooth technology. However, be advised that Bluetooth technology is not fully secure. Bluetooth signals can be intercepted from up to 2.5 km away with specialized equipment. Signals are commonly intercepted in congested areas such as conferences, so there is little security from eavesdropping (capturing signal between device and headset). Data such as stored files, contacts, and calendars can also be captured from a Bluetooth capable device. It is not feasible to measure the probability of such an event; therefore, we recommend that no confidential or sensitive data be stored on or transmitted over Bluetooth-enabled devices.

Section 2-15-114, MCA, states that each department head is responsible for ensuring an adequate level of security for all data within their department. By using Bluetooth technology, you are acknowledging and accepting that responsibility for your agency. ITSD cannot protect or guarantee the security of your data in these situations.

As with all state-owned property, department heads are responsible for establishing internal controls to insure proper use of this technology and for

**STATEMENT ON EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE
INFORMATION SYSTEMS POLICIES AND STANDARDS
PAGE 2 OF 2**

disciplinary action as required to insure accountability for any improper disclosure of information or data.

Please address any questions, comments or concerns to:

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Advisory Disposition: Retain until rescinded by policy or State CIO.

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